2016 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry of Finance ***Fact Sheet 12*** Ontario

Educational Attainment

This factsheet looks at data on education released by Statistics Canada as part of the 2016 Census.

Ontario: Highest Proportion of University-Educated Adults in Canada

- In 2016, almost a third (31.9%) of Ontarians aged 25 to 64 had a university degree, the highest proportion among provinces and territories.
- In contrast, only 6.2% of Ontarians aged 25-64 had a trades certificate as their highest level of educational attainment, which was the lowest in Canada.
- 24.7% of people in the 25-64 age group had a college diploma, 24.5% had a high school diploma as their highest level of attainment, while 10.4% had not completed high school.
- In 2016, nearly two-thirds of Ontarians aged 25 to 64 had completed some form of postsecondary education, and almost one-quarter of university graduates had a master's degree or doctorate as their highest degree.

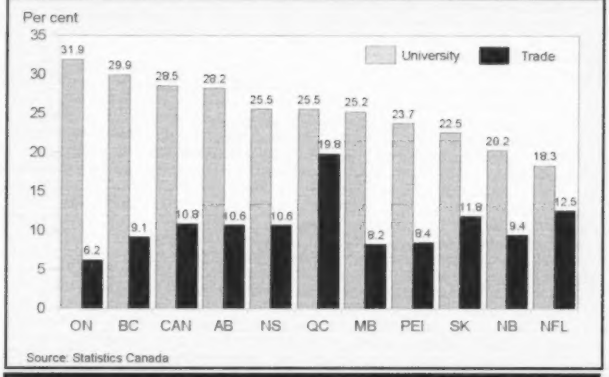
Most Popular Fields of Study Differ for Men and Women

- The most common (24.4%) major field of study in 2016 among women aged 25 to 64 with postsecondary qualifications was business, management and public administration. In contrast, the most common field of study for men (35.4%) was architecture, engineering and related technologies.

Fewer Young Adults Studying in Trades

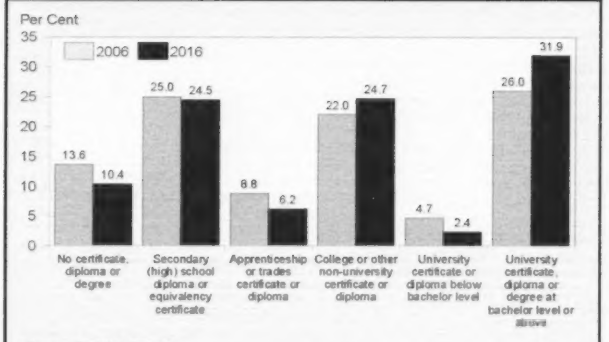
- In 2016, only 7.7% of young adults aged 25 to 34 had not completed high school, compared to 15.1% of Ontarians aged 55 to 64.
- Fewer young adults are studying in trades compared to their parents. About 4.7% of adults aged 25 to 34 had a trades certification in 2016, compared with 7.7% of 55 to 64 year old adults.
- Proportions of college graduates were mostly similar between different age cohorts, with the exception of older adults who had a slightly smaller share.
- In 2016, 39.1% of younger adults were university educated, compared to 23.1% of older adults.
- Finally, 11.9% of Ontarians aged 25 to 34 had post-graduate credentials (above bachelor level), compared to 8.5% of adults aged 55 to 64.

Adults Aged 25 to 64 with University Degrees & Trades Certificates, Canada, 2016



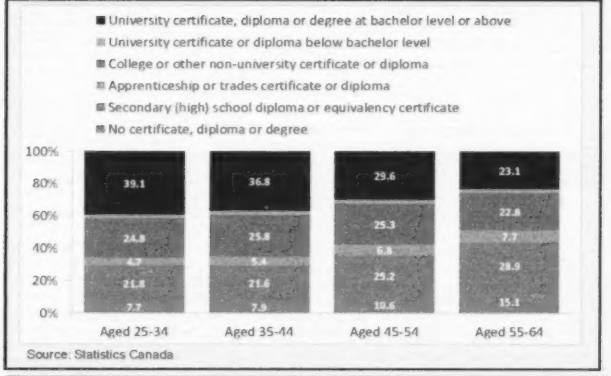
Source: Statistics Canada

Educational Attainment of Ontarians Aged 25-64, 2006 and 2016


Per Cent
2006
2016
No certificate, diploma or degree 13.6 10.4
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate 25.0 24.5
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma 8.8 6.2
College or other non-university certificate or diploma 22.0 24.7
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level 4.7 2.4
University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above 26.0 31.9

Source: Statistics Canada

Educational Attainment by Age Group, Ontario, 2016


University certificate, diploma or degree at bachelor level or above
University certificate or diploma below bachelor level
College or other non-university certificate or diploma
Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma
Secondary (high) school diploma or equivalency certificate
No certificate, diploma or degree
Aged 25-34 39.1 24.8 4.7 21.8 7.7
Aged 35-44 36.8 25.8 5.4 21.6 7.9
Aged 45-54 29.6 25.3 6.8 25.2 10.6
Aged 55-64 23.1 22.8 7.7 28.9 15.1

Source: Statistics Canada

January 2018

Office of Economic Policy
Labour Economics Branch

Educational Attainment in Ontario's CMAs

- In 2016, adults living in the province's 16 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) accounted for 92% of all Ontarians with a university degree.
- By contrast, only 76% of Ontarians who had not finished high school lived in one of the CMAs.

Proportion of Adults with a University Degree

- In Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part), 43.5% of the population aged 25 to 64 had a university degree, the highest proportion among Ontario CMAs.
- Toronto had the second highest proportion with 40.9%, followed by Guelph at 34.7%.
- The CMAs with the lowest proportions of university degree holders were Belleville at 14.0%, Brantford at 16.7%, and Barrie at 19.8%.

Proportion of Adults with a College Diploma

- The Greater Sudbury CMA had the highest proportion of its adult (25-64) population with a college diploma at 34.2% in 2016, followed by Belleville at 32.7% and Peterborough at 31.6%.
- Toronto had by far the lowest proportion among CMAs at 20.1%, followed by Guelph at 23.7%, and Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part) at 23.8%.

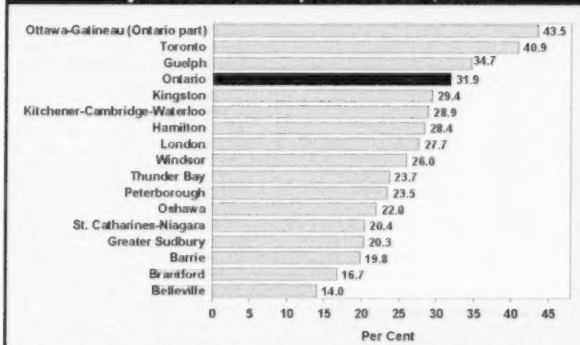
Proportion of Adults with a Trades Certificate

- 8.6% of the adult population (25 to 64) of the Greater Sudbury CMA had a trades certificate in 2016, the largest proportion of all the CMAs in Ontario, followed by Thunder Bay and St. Catharines-Niagara, both at 8.4%.
- Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part) and Toronto had by far the lowest share of population with trade certificates at 4.5% in 2016, followed by Guelph at 5.7%.

Proportion of Adults without a High School Diploma

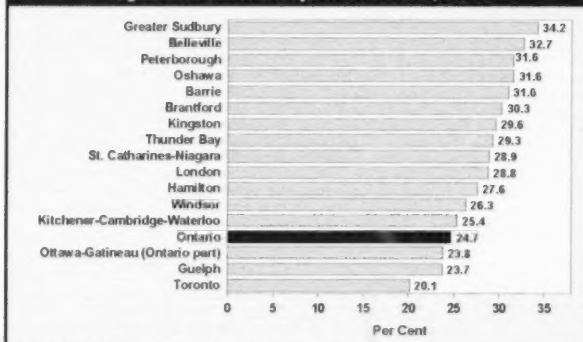
- Brantford and Belleville had by far the highest proportion of adults aged 25 to 64 without high school diploma in 2016, at 13.1% and 12.9% respectively, followed by Thunder Bay at 11.7%.
- The Ontario CMAs with the lowest share of adults without high school diploma were Ottawa-Gatineau (Ontario part) at 6.4%, Kingston at 7.7%, and Guelph at 9.1%.

Ontarians Aged 25 to 64 with a University Degree, by Census Metropolitan Area, 2016



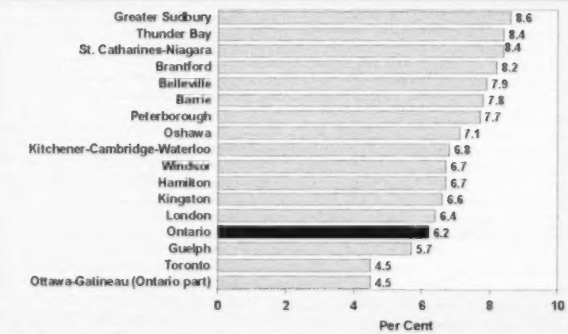
Note: University degree = University certificate, diploma, degree at bachelor's level or above.
Source: Statistics Canada

Ontarians Aged 25 to 64 with a College Diploma, by Census Metropolitan Area, 2016



Note: College diploma = College or other non-university certificate or diploma.
Source: Statistics Canada

Ontarians Aged 25 to 64 with a Trades Certificate, by Census Metropolitan Area, 2016



Note: Trades certificate = Apprenticeship or trades certificate or diploma.
Source: Statistics Canada

Contact: Alex Munger (416) 325-0102